

Approved Mar. 12, 2014
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date February 19, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Allyn Feinberg Tom Isaacson Frances Hartogh Molly Davis

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Patton Jim Reeder Dean Paschall Mark Gershman Chris Wanner
Mike Steinbeiss Dave Kuntz Don D'Amico Mike Orosel Phil Yates
Leah Case Michele Gonzales Alyssa Frideres

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of the Minutes

Tom Isaacson said Annie McFarland needs to be added to the staff members present at the Jan. 29, 2014 meeting. He said on page 2, the fourth paragraph should be changed to say, “Tom said if the decision is made to leave Sanitas in a more rugged condition than before, the public needs to be involved in that process.” He said on page 3, the fourth paragraph should say, “. . . but is optimistic it will happen soon.” On page 3, the third line in the last paragraph should say, “Tom asked if restoration will be needed on the vacated part of the ditch will the city pay for that. Mike said yes, but so far he has not heard of any conversation regarding work in that drainage.” Frances Hartogh said on page 2, the fourth line down, “affect should be changed to “effect.” She said the third line from bottom, the spelling of useable should be “usable.” On page 3, in the fifth paragraph “as” should be changed to “has.”

Tom Isaacson moved to approve the minutes from Jan. 29, 2014 as amended. Frances Hartogh seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

Nancy Egbert, Boulder, said she is curious to know the Board’s sense on how the Voice and Sight Tag (Tag) Program is working. She said her dog does not do well with other dogs approaching her, and there is no assurance within this program that this will not happen. She has only encountered four other people who can call their dog and have them comply. This program should only be for those can adhere to the regulations. She said wildlife in the past has been put down because of dogs approaching them, and that needs to be taken into consideration. She suggested adding additional signs/information throughout the system instructing people about who to call if a situation arises.

Mike Barrow, Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance (BMA), updated the Board on the new BMA SmartTrail application for smart phones. He said he hopes additional cattle guards will be put in this year. He noted that portions of the system are getting a high amount of use, so the department should look at using road base in strategic areas. He said that BMA is currently hiring trail crew leaders as well as a volunteer coordinator. He hopes that BMA and Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) can continue to work together in the future.

Karen Hollweg, Boulder, said she is interested in sustainability and overarching issues being connected with the entire OSMP system and not just regional trails.

The Board asked staff for an update on the Tag Program. Mike Patton said City Council will have the first reading in the beginning of March. He said once the changes are implemented, there should be a noticeable impact. One aspect will be an in-person training program which will educate the dog guardian on program expectations. Allyn Feinberg said the suggestion of additional signage is a good idea. There are very few rangers relative to the amount of visitors, so having the information out in the system would be helpful. Frances noted that the current accountability is very poor. Mike said there will be substantial education and outreach as part of this program.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Director’s Updates

Chris Wanner, Forest Ecologist, gave an update on the 2013 Forest Management Summary Report. This presentation is saved in S:OSMP\Admin\OSBT\Minutes\Minutes 2014\February.

Frances asked what a cleared area will look like after a wildfire. Chris said areas that have been cleared on OSMP have never had a wildfire, but they have a clear idea on how fire will behave in those areas based on research from other agencies. Frances asked how much of the cleared trees get put through the chipper. Chris said typically only the limbs are put through the chipper in an attempt to minimize the negative effects of chipping; the rest is given away as firewood. Molly Davis asked if the Light Detection and Ranging (Lidar) data collects topography and slope. Chris said yes. Molly asked if this data has the possibility for notifying staff in advance of a potential fire. Chris said no, but the data can help identify high-risk areas which can help direct resources in the case of a fire. Allyn asked how much of this work is dependent on grants. Chris said grants provide a boost to the existing budget allowing more resources and work, but they are not solely dependent on them. Allyn said she remains in support of this program.

Dave Kuntz, Project Coordinator, gave a presentation on the 2014 Work Plan Update. This presentation is saved in S:OSMP\Admin\OSBT\Minutes\Minutes 2014\February.

Allyn said sustainability as well as the Tag Program need to remain a high priority. Frances asked how much money will be allocated for the Tag Program monitoring. Mark said the major expense is hiring seasonal employees to do the observation. Allyn asked what council’s direction has been for regional trails. Mike said they are in support of this, but as there is typically more than one entity involved, the process can take awhile. Tom asked if the department is looking to support local agriculture opportunities. Mike said yes. Tom asked about using road base and cattle guards across the system. Mike said the department will continue to put in both of these. Jim Reeder added that there are volunteer projects coming up where some of this work can be done. Molly asked if keeping track of work details for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is impeding with the work flow. Mark said not so far. Molly asked if staff is depending on this reimbursement. Mark said no; staff is doing the steps necessary to make sure there are no issues. Allyn asked if there is damage to the stone work on Chapman Drive. Mark said the system assessment showed no damage to any cultural resources.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

Molly handed out several proposals for potential contractors.

Frances asked when work will begin on the North Trail Study Area (TSA). Mike said they will begin preliminary work this year, but will not be underway for a while. Molly asked who will take over for Allyn as the Board Chair when her term has ended. Mike said the Board can vote any way they choose.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Leah Case.

APPROVED BY:

Tom Isaacson
Board Chair

DATE